
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Vermont Elections Division at 1-800-439-8683. If they are unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Post Office Box 66128
Washington, D.C. 20035
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Vermont?

In Vermont, the fact that you have been convicted of a crime does not affect your right to vote.

If you are a resident of Vermont, you can vote even while you are incarcerated. To vote, you must utilize Vermont's absentee ballot procedures. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Vermont, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Vermont, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

These same rules apply to vote in Vermont, even if your conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Vermont's other voter registration requirements?

To register to vote in Vermont, you must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years of age on or before the next election.

Under Vermont law, you must be a resident of the town in which you apply to be added to the voter registration list; however, if you are currently incarcerated, you may keep your residency for voting purposes in the town in which you resided prior to incarceration.

Vermont also requires that a voter must take or have previously taken the Voter's Oath.

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Vermont, but your application must be received by 12 noon on the second Saturday before the day of election in order to be eligible to vote in that election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available by contacting your Town or City Clerk. To obtain the number for your town clerk, you may call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State toll free at

(800) 439-8683

or write to the elections office at:

Elections Division
Secretary of State
26 Terrace Street
Montpelier, VT 05609